



## City of El Segundo Arts and Culture Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes  
for February 23, 2020 5:30 p.m.  
Zoom

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tongva. We recognize the Tongva people as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands). We also acknowledge that Los Angeles County is home to the largest Indigenous populations in the US.

### A. CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Neal Von Flue.

### B. ROLL CALL

1. Members present: Jeff Cason (Arrived 5:34PM), Kristen Dorsey (Arrived 5:34PM), Maureen Kingsley, Mark Knight, Michael Kreski (Arrived 5:37PM), Brian Mitchell (Arrived 5:48PM), Samantha Smith-Strassner, Vice Chairperson Natalie Strong, Eva Sweeney, and Chairperson Neal Von Flue
2. City Council Liaisons present:  
  
Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present  
Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present
3. City Staff Liaisons present: Community Services Director Melissa McCollum and Senior Librarian Julie Todd

### C. PRESENTATIONS

1. Recreation Coordinator Devon Zamora discusses the City of El Segundo's new Teen Advisory Council (TAC)  
(Devon Zamora/5 minutes)

Devon Zamora shared that the Teen Advisory Committee will be starting soon and is comprised of 23 teens who participated in an application and interview process. She said the teens are a very diverse group of kids. The intent is to give the teens a voice in what programs and events the Teen Center hosts and engage them in the planning process as well.

Chairperson Neal Von Flue said the ACC has a lot of overlap in goals with the Teen Center. Eva Sweeney asked if there are plans to beautify the Teen Center and if ACC will be involved. Devon mentioned the City's Recreation and Parks needs assessment currently in progress and her hope that the TAC can be

involved in the beautification process. Vice Chairperson Natalie Strong asked if the meeting style will be more formal or casual. Devon expressed an interest in both, emphasizing the importance of structure and the teens feeling comfortable. The meetings are planned for the first Monday of each month, beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Maureen Kingsley asked about term limits. Devon shared that she expects most to age out after high school. Terms will be January – December in order to have time to plan for summer events, but applications will be accepted every year. Chairperson Neal Von Flue would like to see the ACC partner with the Teen Advisory Committee once the group establishes their routine and plans.

#### **D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**

#### **E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for January 26, 2021**

1. Approval of minutes of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Special Meeting of January 26, 2021.

A verbal vote was taken by Julie Todd.

MOTIONED by Mark Knight and SECONDED by Eva Sweeney to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 as presented. Motion CARRIED 9-0.

#### **F. SPECIAL BUSINESS - NONE**

#### **G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE**

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Revision of Big Idea List and Selection of Top 7 Ideas to Develop and Present to City Council in April  
(Chairperson Neal Von Flue/40 minutes)

Chairperson Neal Von Flue led the Big Idea List discussion. After reviewing all items on the Big Idea List, ACC members voted for their top five ideas. The ideas that rose to the top include Outdoor Dining Spaces (6 votes), DEI School Programming (6 votes), TEDx El Segundo (4 votes), Community Participation Mural (4 votes), and four projects tied with three votes each. Those include Festival of Holidays, Poet Laureate, PCH Pedestrian Bridge and Bus Shelter Art.

With the second round of votes, the top five that will move forward in preparation for Council presentation include TEDx El Segundo (8 votes), Festival of Holidays (8 votes), Poet Laureate (8 votes), Outdoor Dining Spaces (7 votes), and DEI Programming (7 votes). Other projects previously supported by the City Council include Gateway Projects, Library Park Activation, and Art Walk.

Jeff Cason asked what the expectations are for the City Council presentation. Julie Todd mentioned bringing 3-5 detailed descriptions of projects, so Council has a good idea what the project entails.

Melissa McCollum said that the City Council would be interested in specific recommendations for various gateways in the future. Melissa reminded the group that the Cultural Development Fund cannot be used to gift schools with funding for DEI programs, but DEI could be addressed in other public programming.

Jeff Cason suggested assigning ACC members to the top identified ideas to do the research and really flush out each project, so Council has a good idea what the projects entail.

Eva Sweeney reminded the committee about the upcoming Olympics and Superbowl that will be local and to start planning projects that could show off El Segundo during those times.

Melissa McCollum encouraged Chairperson Neal Von Flue to schedule a meeting with City Manager Scott Mitnick for feedback. She also said that the City Council has previously articulated that they would like the DEI Committee to take the lead on the City's DEI efforts, but there is room for collaboration. Eva Sweeney added spending time on the Gateway projects to get a better vision to share with Council. Melissa McCollum said that some City Council Members have expressed interest in a simple solution to make the train bridge on the east side over El Segundo Boulevard more attractive and welcoming as motorists enter the City.

The list of top projects with assigned ACC members for research:

- TEDx El Segundo – Eva
- Festival of Holidays – Jeff
- Poet Laureate – Natalie, Maureen, Samantha
- Outdoor Dining Spaces – Jeff, Neal
- DEI Programming – Natalie, Kristen

Council supported projects with assigned ACC members for research:

- Gateways – Neal, Eva
- Library Park Activation – Natalie
- Art Walk – Neal, phone call to George Renfro

Members will research the following to bring to the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting: project timeframe, cost, scope, impact/need, staff requirements, partner requirements, alignment with City goals, timeframe, and notable examples of successes in other cities.

## **I. GOVERNANCE**

Julie Todd shared the concept of a “Poetree Project” for National Poetry Month in April. Identify and hang public domain poems in trees along Main Street. Maureen Kingsley volunteered to help plan the project.

## **J. ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chairperson Neal Von Flue – Thank you to the members for their hard work and dedication.

Vice Chairperson Natalie Strong – Asked about library reopening. Melissa mentioned COVID metrics are improving. When the county moves to the Red Tier, there will be limited browsing and access to public computers with appointments, and continued Library to Go services. Natalie also mentioned receiving both doses of the vaccine and feels relief.

Jeff Cason – none

Kristen Dorsey – Shared that she will be returning to UCLA for her doctoral in Gender Studies this fall and will be stepping down from the ACC as her term has expired but is willing to continue until her position has been replaced.

Maureen Kingsley – Congratulated Kristen. Mentioned her interest in the “Poetree Project”

Mark Knight – Recognized the people lost due to COVID.

Michael Kreski – none

Brian Mitchell – none

Samantha Smith-Strassner – none

Eva Sweeney – Thanked members who helped organize the revised Big Idea List. Mentioned ESMoA is eager to open when the County allows. The reopening will include ticketed entries and sanitization. Five people at a time will be allowed in.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS – NONE**

Councilmember Lance Giroux – not present

Councilmember Scot Nicol – not present

## **K. CITY LIAISON UPDATES - NONE**

**L. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

NEXT MEETING: on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., held virtually on Zoom.

Posted by: Julie Todd  
Date & Time: 3/1/21, 2PM